

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15-18, 21-29, 33-35, and 40-41. Claims 15, 21, 24, 29, 33, 40 and 41 are amended herein. Claims 1-14, 19-20, 30-32, 36-39 and 42 remain withdrawn. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 15-18, 21-29, 33-35, and 40-41 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 15 is amended herein to comply with § 112, second paragraph.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101:

Claims 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 15 is amended herein to recite "a grants management system comprising a processor." The invention of claim 15 is directed to a system comprising "a web portal", "a grants management system", "a financial management system" and "an integration unit." The invention of claim 15 is directed to the system executing operations and not the method of using the system.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 15, 16 and 18 as being unpatentable over "Emerging grants management market about to open up" (Wait), in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2001/0042088 (Hotchkiss), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,385,620 (Kurzious) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,724,488 (Prezioso)

Wait does not teach or suggest "integrally connecting the grants management system with the financial management system... to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative", as recited for example in independent claim 15. See also claims 24, 29, 33 and 41 reciting "integrating" and "interfacing" the grants management system with the financial management system.

The claimed invention provides a system integrating the financial management system with the grants management system including creating financial transactions automatically within the financial management system such as commitments, obligations, de-commitments, de-obligations.

Instead, Wait merely discusses the need for systems for managing grants that governments hand out each year (see, paragraph 1). However, the sections of Wait pointed out by the Examiner only mention a product called eGrants (paragraph 9), a web portal called Federal Commons (paragraph 18), and an abstract of a grant process including announcement of grant program, registration, application, receiving the application, notifying, verification, evaluation, award, reporting and closeout (paragraphs 24-32). Wait does not contain sufficient technical information to enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to which the claimed invention pertains to make and use the claimed subject matter.

Wait does not teach or suggest "integrating the grants management system with a financial management system" and "dynamically managing grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative", where the integration includes "automatically creating said financial transactions including commitments and obligation within the financial management system", as recited in claim 21.

As discussed above, the independent claims patentably distinguish over Wait. Further, as Hotchkiss merely discloses a medical or veterinary procedure review system, Hotchkiss does not cure the deficiencies of Wait regarding the independent claims of the present application.

In particular, Hotchkiss is limited to a medical or veterinary procedure review such as receiving an application, forwarding the application to a reviewer, recording of the review process for consideration by a 3rd party auditing the application review process to assume compliance with established guidelines (see, paragraph 37-40).

Kurzius does not teach or suggest "dynamically evaluating the grant initiative application using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score", as recited for example in claim 21. See also claims 28 and 40.

Instead, Kurzius is directed matching candidate profiles and candidate qualification data against job criteria and ranking candidates according to a qualitative scale of how well the candidate survey forms match the particular job posting (see, col. 15, lines 8-32).

On the other hand, Prezioso discusses fuzzy logic entity behavior profiler (see, Fig. 10, col. 16, lines 50-55), and Shaheen is directed to maintaining data coherency in a system in which data is replicated on two or more servers (see, col. 5, lines 62-63).

The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-identified features including "integrally connecting a financial management system with a grants management system" and "dynamically evaluating the grant initiative application using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score", as taught by the claimed invention.

Further, even assuming arguendo that the cited references do disclose the features discussed by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation to combine the cited references.

MPEP §2143.01 states that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some reasoning that leads to a legal conclusion of obviousness. Therefore, as there is no requisite reasoning to combine the references cited by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's §103 rejections.

The record, however, fails to provide the required evidence of a motivation for a person of ordinary skill in the art to perform such modification. For example, while Hotchkiss discusses medical or veterinary procedure review, Wait fails to suggest why a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would be motivated to incorporate the review such as discussed in the non-analogous field of medical or veterinary procedure review of Hotchkiss.

In other words, an attempt to bring in the isolated teaching of the cited references into the Wait system would amount to improperly picking and choosing features from different references without regard to the teachings of the references as a whole.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS:

Claims depending from the independent include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not disclosed by the cited references. Thus, for at least the above-mentioned reasons, the dependent claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 16 that the multi-channel grants management system provides "multi-channel communication access to the grant initiative and financial transactions, and file exchange to a user over a web-based portal, e-mail, a telephone, fax, or in person." The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features of claim 16.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

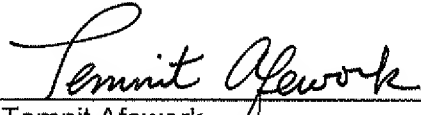
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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